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Urban District of Ashington



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH**



and the

Senior Public Health Inspector

for the Year

1957

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Ashington.

Madam Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my report for the year 1957.

The birth-rate has declined to 15.51 per 1,000 which is somewhat lower than the average of 16.6 per 1,000 of the population in England and Wales. The death-rate, also, has fallen and is only very slightly higher than the national average. There was a welcome decline in the number of deaths from heart disease—104 as compared with 116; vascular lesions of the nervous system—49 as compared with 60; and malignant neoplasms—40 as compared with 58, in 1956.

Only 5 deaths were attributed to cancer of the lung, a reduction of 6 on the number in 1956.

There were 9 fatal accidents of which 8 were due to vehicular traffic and one was due to an accidental fall sustained by an old person, at home.

The most striking change to be noted is the reduction in the notifications and deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis: These reached a record low level with only 5 new cases and one death. There was also one new case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

It is pleasant to be able to record that work began during the year on the scheme for bringing the colliery houses up to a better standard by installing internal water supplies, an improvement long overdue.

In conclusion, I have to thank the various departments of the Council for assistance given to me; and the Council for the consideration shown me.

I am,

Madam Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

C. B. McGREGOR,
M.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health
Urban District of Ashington

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

| | |
|--|---|
| Medical Officer of Health | CATHERINE B. McGREGOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. |
| Assistant Medical Officer | KATHLEEN DICK, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H. |
| Public Health Housing Inspector | G. W. TATE, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H. |
| Meat | |
| Public Health Meat Inspector | S. MUSK, M.A.P.H.I. |
| Public Health Meat Inspector | H. G. BELL, M.A.P.H.I. |
| Offices of the Medical Officer | 146, Station Road, Ashington. |
| Telephone | Ashington 2287. |
| Offices of the Public Health Inspector | Council Chambers, Ashington. |
| Telephone | Ashington 3210. |

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The area and boundaries of the Urban Area remained the same as in previous years. Coal mining is the chief industry and employs the bulk of the working male population. Other means of employment include agriculture and the manufacture of electrical equipment, clothing and cake decorations.

The housing shortage continues to be a problem and much remains to be done to improve the amenities in the many substandard houses. It is pleasing, however, to note that the work of providing an internal piped water supply to these houses began during the year.

| | |
|--|----------|
| Area in Acres | 6,057 |
| Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1957 | 28,370 |
| Rateable Value | £227,005 |
| One Penny Rate produces | £885 |
| Number of inhabited houses (end of 1957) | 8,537 |

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The figures in brackets are the corresponding rates for England and Wales.

| Live Births: | Total | Male | Female |
|--|-------|-------|--------|
| Legitimate | 441 | 238 | 203 |
| Illegitimate | 8 | 5 | 3 |
| | 449 | 243 | 206 |
| Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population | | 15.83 | (16.6) |
| (Comparability factor 0.98) Standard Birth Rate | | 15.51 | |

| Still Births: | Total | Male | Female |
|---|-------|-------|--------|
| Legitimate | 9 | 4 | 5 |
| Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births | | 19.65 | (22.6) |
| Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population | | 0.317 | |

DEATHS

Total—278. Male—160. Female—118.

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Death Rate per 1,000 of the population | 9.799 (12.2) |
| (Comparability Factor 1.29) Standard Death Rate | 12.64 |
| Deaths from Puerperal Causes (heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion | Nil |
| Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births | Nil |

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| All Infants per 1,000 live births | 33.41 (25.0) |
| Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births | 34.01 |
| Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births | Nil |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) | Nil |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) | 1 |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) | 2 |

The Registrar-General supplies the following:

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1956.

| | Male | Female |
|---|------|--------|
| 1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory | 1 | — |
| 2. Tuberculosis (other forms) | — | — |
| 3. Syphilitic Disease | — | — |
| 4. Diphtheria | — | — |
| 5. Whooping Cough | — | 1 |
| 6. Meningococcal Infections | — | — |
| 7. Acute Poliomyelitis | — | — |
| 8. Measles | — | — |
| 9. Other infective and parasitic diseases | — | — |
| 10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach | 5 | 1 |
| 11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus | 5 | 1 |
| 12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast | — | 4 |
| 13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus | — | 2 |
| 14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms | 12 | 7 |
| 15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia | 1 | 1 |
| 16. Diabetes | — | — |
| 17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System | 19 | 30 |
| 18. Coronary Disease, Angina | 29 | 16 |
| 19. Hypertension with Heart Disease | 4 | 2 |
| 20. Other Heart Diseases | 21 | 19 |
| 21. Other Circulatory Diseases | 9 | 4 |
| 22. Influenza | 2 | — |
| 23. Pneumonia | 7 | 3 |
| 24. Bronchitis | 17 | 5 |
| 25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System | 2 | — |
| 26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum | 2 | — |
| 27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea | 1 | 2 |
| 28. Nephritis and Nephrosis | 1 | — |
| 29. Hyperplasia of prostate | — | — |
| 30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion | — | — |
| 31. Congenital Malformations | 3 | 1 |
| 32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases | 11 | 17 |
| 33. Motor Vehicle Accidents | 7 | 1 |
| 34. All other Accidents | — | 1 |
| 35. Suicide | 1 | — |
| 36. Homicide and Operations of War | — | — |
| | 160 | 118 |

Deaths of Infants under 1 year:

| | Male | Female |
|------------------|------|--------|
| Legitimate | 8 | 7 |

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH IN ASHINGTON

| | Total Number | % of Total Deaths |
|---|-----------------|----------------------|
| Diseases of the Heart and Circulation | 104 | 37.41 |
| Vascular Lesions of Nervous System | 49 | 17.63 |
| Malignant Neoplasms | 40 | 14.39 |
| Bronchitis | 22 | 7.91 |
| | <u>215</u> | <u>77.34</u> |

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1957

The total number of infants who died, before reaching the age of one year, was 15, a decrease of 2 compared with the previous year. The death rate, per 1,000 live births was 33.41 which was slightly lower than the rate in 1956 but still considerably higher than the average for England and Wales. Neonatal deaths accounted for 60% of the total. At least 5 of the deaths were due to unavoidable causes while 5 were due to diseases which might, perhaps, have been prevented.

The following table shows the comparative mortality rates during the past ten years:

| | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 | 1956 | 1957 |
|-------------------------------------|------|------|-------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Infantile deaths under 1 year | 29 | 29 | 16 | 21 | 24 | 20 | 9 | 7 | 14 | 17 | 15 |
| Infantile Mortality | 46.9 | 58.1 | 30.01 | 39.1 | 45.8 | 41.75 | 18.59 | 15.49 | 29.66 | 26.09 | 33.41 |

The following table gives details of the cause of death in the different age groups under 1 year.

| Cause of Death | Under 1 day | 1 - 6 days | 1 week | 2 weeks | 3-4 weeks | Total under 1 month | 1 - 3 mths | 4 - 6 mths | 7 - 9 mths | 10 - 12 mths | 1 - 12 mths | Total under 1 year |
|---|----------------|---------------|-----------|------------|--------------|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Myeloid Leukaemia | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Broncho Pneumonia..... | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | 2 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | 3 |
| Prematurity 'Ante Partum Haem) | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Prematurity | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Asphyxia Neonatorum | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Atelectasis Neonatorum | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Congenital Abnormality | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | 2 | — | 2 | — | — | 2 | 4 |
| Gastro Enteritis | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | 2 | 2 |
| Total | 3 | 4 | — | 1 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 4 | — | 1 | 6 | 15 |

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Newcastle General Hospital and additional facilities are now available at Ashington General Hospital.

The extent to which these facilities have been utilised is shown below:

| Specimen sent by | Specimen | Pos. | Neg. |
|---|---|------|---------------|
| Regional Hospital Board Physician | Sputum for B. Tuberculosis | 8 | Not available |
| General Practitioner | Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci ... | — | 3 |
| Medical Officer of Health | Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci | — | 1 |
| General Practitioner | Swabs for Staphylococci | 2 | — |
| Medical Officer of Health | Swabs for Staphylococci | 2 | 5 |
| General Practitioner | Faeces for Pathogenic organisms | 1 | 2 |
| Medical Officer of Health | Faeces for Pathogenic organisms | 19 | 56 |
| 4 Sensitivity Tests were carried out. | | | |

Ambulance Service.

This service is provided and maintained by the County Council. The staff was increased by one during the year, to a total of 10 drivers plus one radio control assistant. A 24-hour service is maintained and the provision of radio control has increased the efficiency of the service and reduced the mileage covered by the ambulances.

The Ashington depot serves Ashington, Newbiggin, Lynemouth, Ellington and Linton.

Nursing in the Home.

This service is provided by the County Council.

Hospitals.

The Regional Hospital Board maintains two hospitals in the area; Ashington General Hospital and North Seaton Hospital. Ashington Hospital now draws patients from a much wider area than it did before July 1948 and a considerable building programme to increase accommodation and services is proposed.

Treatment Centre and Clinics.

The Regional Hospital Board provides a Chest Clinic which is situated in Lintonville Terrace.

Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

These are provided by the Northumberland County Council at the Centre in South View and some additional services are provided at 40, Bolsover Street.

Clinics are held at South View as follows:—

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Every Monday Morning. | — Child Welfare Clinic. |
| Alternate Monday Afternoons. | — Birthday Clinic. |
| Every Tuesday Morning. | — Child Welfare Clinic. |
| Every Tuesday Afternoon. | — Birthday Clinic. |
| Every Wednesday Morning. | — Ante-natal Clinic. |
| Every Wednesday Afternoon. | — Birthday Clinic. |
| Every Thursday Afternoon. | — Child Welfare Clinic. |
| Every 4th Friday — all day — | Diphtheria Immunisation Sessions. |

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

General Inspection.

As usual, most of the nuisances in the area have been abated by informal action, and it was found necessary to serve statutory notices in only five cases.

Of these five statutory notices, four were complied with by the end of the year, as also were three notices served at the latter end of the previous year.

Applications for Improvement Grants under the Housing Act totalled 27, all of which were approved by the Local Authority.

Under the Rents Act, 1957, which came into force in July, there were 12 applications for certificates of disrepair before the end of the year. In eight of the cases, undertakings were received from the landlord, while in the other four cases, certificates of disrepair were granted to the tenants.

The following table summarises the notices served:

| Nuisances dealt with and work required to be done | Verbal or Written Notices | Defects Remedied |
|---|---------------------------|------------------|
| Insufficient, choked or defective drainage | 112 | 72 |
| Defective W.C. basins | 6 | 5 |
| Defective W.C. cisterns and service pipes | 5 | 5 |
| Defective water supply and lack of internal water supply | 173 | 53 |
| Defective sinks and waste pipes and provision for internal water supply | 164 | 45 |
| Defective or missing ashbins | — | 13 |
| Defective roofs | 3 | 7 |
| Damp walls | 11 | 15 |
| Defective spouts | 17 | 20 |
| Defective wallplaster | 7 | 5 |
| Defective ceilings | 8 | 4 |
| Defective doors, windows and floors | 30 | 39 |
| Defective ranges, fireplaces and setpot boilers | 12 | 15 |
| Defective chimney flues | 3 | 8 |
| Defective paving and yard surfaces | 3 | 4 |
| Defective outbuildings | 21 | 34 |
| Defective food stores | — | — |
| Offensive accumulation | 2 | 2 |
| Other defects | 7 | 7 |

Water.

There are 8537 occupied houses in the district and of these only one is served by standpipe.

The whole of the supply is by Tynemouth Corporation and regular sampling undertaken both by them and by us, shows that it continues to be excellent drinking water of the highest purity.

50 samples were taken during the year by the Department, of which 43 were reported to be in Class 1 and 7 in Class 3. The 7 Class 3 samples were all from one source, and were taken as checks while the cause was being investigated and corrected.

There are about 400 houses and flats in Ashington which are not provided with an internal piped water supply, complete with sink.

The serving of informal notices to remedy this deficiency was commenced in August, these notices being served in batches, at intervals which would allow the available builders and plumbers to cope with the work involved.

169 notices were served before the end of the year, during which time 42 were fully complied with.

Drainage and Sewerage.

111 drainage systems were repaired or reconstructed during the year, and these were all tested and approved by the department. Consultation and discussion with owners or builders before work commences, has always been our aim, which has resulted in maximum benefit to all concerned.

The conversion of buildings to the water carriage system in Bothal Village was completed during the year, and the new Sewage Disposal Plant is now in full Operation.

Swimming Baths.

The Institute Baths, open to the Public as well as to Institute members, were visited regularly during the year, and bacteriological samples of the Bath water were found to be satisfactory. Regular sampling and testing is also undertaken by the Scientific Department of the National Coal Board in Ashington, and copies of the reports are made available to this department.

Schools.

All the schools in the district have a main water supply and a water carriage system.

Cinemas and Public Buildings.

Routine inspections of all such buildings were carried out during the year.

Atmospheric Pollution.

Tied up with the question of a reduction in smoke and soot emission and the eventual introduction of a smokeless area is the question of Improvement Grants.

The connection in this particular area, is the projected improvement by the National Coal Board to property in the Hirst where a start is to be made on the project, following agreement between the National Union of Mineworkers and the Board on the quantity and type of concessionary coal to be delivered when improvements are effected.

That there is room for a considerable reduction of the domestic contribution to the pollution we now enjoy, without even then approaching the standard of a Smokeless Area, is unquestioned. Were water, milk and food stuffs generally as indifferently treated as is the atmosphere, great would be the clamour.

Meantime, the "fouling of one's own nest" goes on.

Reference was made in the last report to an application by the National Coal Board to extend the washery heaps northwards, of the objection by the Council to this and their practicable alternative of land reclamation, over which agreement had not been reached at the year end.

The Minister of Housing and Local Government held an inquiry on 28th February, 1957 on appeal by the Board against the refusal of the Council, on behalf of the County Planning Authority, to permit this development.

The Minister's decision was made known on the 23rd October, 1957. He noted the objections to the proposals put forward by the Local Authorities, and the information given by the Board on the comparative costs of the suggested alternative methods of waste disposal. He sees no marked objection, either on considerations of visual amenity or on grounds of increased dust nuisance, to a limited extension northwards of the existing washery tips over the land shown as site A on the plan accompanying the Board's application; and he proposes to grant permission sought in respect of this area, which he observes will provide tipping space for an estimated period of six years. As regards the remainder of the Board's proposals, however, he thinks it would be wrong to allow the creation of a new ridge tip in so prominent a situation without reference to arrangements that must sooner or later be made for the disposal of waste during the remainder of the life of the colliery. In his opinion a determined attempt should be made to secure a material improvement both in the appearance of the area and in the conditions due to wind-blown dust, and also the reclamation of the land for some useful purpose; and he considers that the problem should be further examined by the Board, in consultation with the local planning authority, during the period during which tipping will be continuing in the area to the north of the washery tips. Meanwhile he proposes to uphold the decision of the local planning authority in respect of that part of the Board's application which relates to the land to the north-west of the railway— shown as site B on the plan accompanying the application

The foregoing extract from the Minister's decision on the Appeal by the National Coal Board really means that whereas the National Coal Board sought approval to the tipping of Washery Waste after the present manner for another twenty years, the Minister has decreed that he approves of this type of tipping only for a further six years, during which time he considers the problem of disposal of waste should be further considered with the view of attempting to secure a reduction of the dust nuisance and also the reclamation of land.

The Conference or East Northumberland Local Authorities convened by Bedlingtonshire Urban District Council did not meet as expected in 1957, so that, if not defunct, it can be regarded as moribund.

The objections of the Council to the proposals of the County Planning Authority in relation to the Town Map was the subject of a second Inquiry held by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in August, 1957. The Council's views on stone disposal by the National Coal Board were similar to those expressed at the first Inquiry in February, 1957.

The Minister's decision had not been received at the end of the year.

The problem of burning spoilbanks has long been the subject of discussion with the National Coal Board here in Ashington, and it has been repeatedly stressed that a reduction in the quantity of coal fed to the heaps would effect a corresponding reduction in the amount of firing. An event of more than ordinary import during the year was the placing of an Order by No. 3 Area of the Board, for an entirely new type of plant to deal with this stone waste. This plant, the first of its kind, will ensure the removal of coal and crush the stone residue to allow of tighter packing, not, it is hoped in new conicals, but in areas which because of marked subsidence, have been top soil stripped and reclaimed. The operation of the plant is projected for late 1958 and its advent is awaited.

Once again it is pleasing to record the encouragement and co-operation of the Alkali, etc., Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Rodent Control.

Complaints have been comparatively few, and these have been quickly dealt with. Allotments and open spaces have been constantly surveyed and prompt action was taken where evidence of infestation was discovered. In this way, the building up of reservoirs was prevented and the rodent population kept to a minimum.

Infestations continue to be invited by indiscriminate feeding of birds and poultry and by ineffective "do it yourself" treatments.

Test baiting of the sewers indicated that only one section was infested and this section was successfully treated.

The following table summarises the work done.

| | L.A. | TYPE OF PROPERTY | | | Total |
|---|------|------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| | | Dwelling Houses | Agricultural (inc. Bus. Premises) | All other | |
| Total numbers of properties in district | 8 | 8537 | 27 | 972 | 9544 |
| No. inspected because of: | | | | | |
| (a) Complaint | 5 | 35 | 3 | 22 | 65 |
| (b) as routine surveys | 3 | 49 | 24 | 230 | 306 |
| No. of Rat infestations: | | | | | |
| (a) Major | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| (b) Minor | 2 | 22 | 5 | 14 | 43 |
| No. of Mouse infestations: | | | | | |
| (a) Major | — | — | — | 5 | 5 |
| (b) Minor | 4 | 20 | — | 22 | 46 |
| No. of infested properties treated by Local Authority ... | 6 | 42 | 6 | 41 | 95 |

Burial Grounds.

The question of disposal of the dead was given consideration during the year. A special Committee was appointed and met. The matter was under discussion at the end of the year.

Pet Animals Act.

There were no shop premises in Ashington licensed under these provisions.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Year ending 31st December, 1957.

| | No. of Inspections during year. | No. of Defects or Contraventions of Byelaws. | No. of Informal Notices served. | Defects remedied by Informal Action. | No. of Statutory Notices served. | Defects remedied by Statutory Action. | Legal Proceedings. |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| HOUSING | | | | | | | |
| Structural Defects | 419 | 91 | 71 | 95 | 20 | 23 | — |
| Defective Food Store | | 31 | 25 | 32 | 6 | 9 | — |
| Dampness | | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Overcrowding | | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| WATER SUPPLY | | | | | | | |
| Insufficient | 297 | 164 | 164 | 45 | — | — | — |
| Unsatisfactory | | 9 | 9 | 8 | — | — | — |
| DRAINAGE | | | | | | | |
| Insufficient | 165 | 85 | 85 | 25 | — | — | — |
| Defective | | 47 | 7 | 47 | — | — | — |
| SANITARY CONVENIENCES | | | | | | | |
| Insufficient | 73 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Defective | | 23 | 19 | 22 | 4 | 5 | — |
| GENERAL | | | | | | | |
| Food Premises | 753 | 187 | — | 198 | — | — | — |
| Dairies | 9 | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Slaughterhouses | 735 | 7 | — | 7 | — | — | — |
| Tents, Vans, etc. | 5 | 3 | — | 3 | — | — | — |
| Offensive Trades | 27 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Factories and Workplaces | 131 | 13 | — | 13 | — | — | — |
| Keeping of Animals | 8 | 6 | — | 6 | — | — | — |
| Insanitary Ashpits and Bins | 13 | 13 | — | 13 | — | — | — |
| Offensive Accumulations | 5 | 2 | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| Smoke Nuisances | 43 | 7 | — | 7 | — | — | — |
| TOTALS | 2683 | 689 | 380 | 524 | 30 | 37 | — |

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 to 1948.

There are 111 factories and workshops in the district. The following table gives details of the inspections made and the defects found during the year under review.

There are no outworkers in the district.

The "other" premises included in Section (3) of Table 1 are four building sites on which sanitary accommodation had to be provided.

1. Inspections.

| Premises | Number on Register | Number of | | |
|---|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted |
| i Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by L.A. | 37 | 39 | — | — |
| ii Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 71 | 75 | — | — |
| iii Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) | 3 | 9 | — | — |
| Total | 111 | 123 | — | — |

2. Cases in which defects were found.

| Particulars | No. of cases in which defects were found | | | | No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted |
|--|--|----------|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| | Found | Remedied | To H.M. Inspector | By H.M. Inspector | |
| Want of Cleanliness | 3 | 3 | — | — | — |
| Overcrowding | — | — | — | — | — |
| Unreasonable temperature | — | — | — | — | — |
| Inadequate ventilation | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ineffective drainage of floors | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sanitary Conveniences— | — | — | — | — | — |
| (a) Insufficient | — | — | — | — | — |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | 5 | 5 | — | — | — |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) | 5 | 5 | — | — | — |
| Total | 13 | 13 | — | — | — |

SECTION D

TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1957.

Houses completed during the year:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| (a) By Local Authority | 64 |
| (b) By other bodies or Persons | 9 |

Closing and Demolition.

| | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas | Nil |
| 2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas | Nil |
| 3. Houses closed, not demolished | Nil |
| 4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above | 4 |

Repairs.

Houses made fit by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts:

| | |
|---|-----|
| 1. By Informal Action | 81 |
| 2. By owners, following statutory notice | 17 |
| 3. By Local Authority in default of owners..... | Nil |
| 4. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction | Nil |

Houses Patched.

| | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Houses in Clearance Areas retained for temporary accommodation | Nil |
|---|-----|

Improvement Grants, Housing Act, 1949.

| | No. of Separate houses. |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Applications submitted to Local Authority during year | 27 |
| 2. Applications rejected | Nil |
| 3. Applications approved | 27 |
| 4. Approximate average grant approved per house | £174 |
| 5. Total number of applications approved since inception of scheme | 137 |

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947-1952.

Seven premises in the area are registered for the manufacture of ice-cream. They have all been regularly inspected, and found to comply with the above regulations and with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

During the year 31 samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted to the prescribed tests under the regulations. Reports were returned as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Grade 1—17 samples. | Grade 3—4 samples. |
| Grade 2— 4 samples. | Grade 4—6 samples |

Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises.

The number of food premises by type in the area is as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Confectionery | 24 |
| Grocers and General Dealers | 109 |
| Butchers | 26 |
| Greengrocery | 17 |
| Bakery | 14 |
| Temperance Bars | 8 |
| Fish (Wet) | 2 |
| Fish and Chips | 14 |
| Cafes | 3 |

Three premises are registered as dairies, 68 persons registered as distributors of milk, and 74 licenses were issued to milk dealers, including one supplementary licence.

96 premises are registered for the sale and/or manufacture of ice-cream, and 25 for the manufacture of sausage, preserved food, etc., of which 6 premises are registered for both purposes.

753 visits to food premises were made during the year, and 187 contravention of the Food Hygiene Regulations were found. 198 such contraventions were remedied, some of these having been drawn to the notice of the occupiers during the previous year.

While all foodshops have now been inspected and the occupiers acquainted with their responsibilities under the Food Hygiene Regulation, further visits will be paid as often as possible in order to maintain or improve the clean food standard.

Foreign Matter in Food.

Foreign matters found in food, and reported to us during the year were:

Nail in cream cake.
Finger bandage in Italian Tinned Tomatoes.
Dirt in Milk Bottle.
Beetle in Pie.
Nail in Loaf.

Action was taken against the baker responsible for the nail in the cream cake, which resulted in a fine of £10 being imposed. The dirty milk bottle came from outside the area, and was referred to the County Public Health Inspector, while in the case of the finger bandage in the tinned tomatoes, it was decided to take no action as the fault obviously lay in the country of origin.

Cautions were given to bakers regarding the beetle in the pie, and the nail in the loaf, there being no evidence of neglect in either case.

Food and Drugs.

Regular samples of food and drugs have been taken in the district by the Northumberland County Council, and submitted to the Public Analyst.

Details of these samples have been kindly provided by Mr. C. J. Arlidge, Chief County Weights and Measures Inspector, and these show that 82 samples of milk and 50 samples of miscellaneous foods were taken during the year, of which only one was unsatisfactory.

The single adverse report concerned ground almonds, which were found to contain 10% ground Cashew nuts, and the firm in question was cautioned for the offence.

Meat and Other Foods.

The five slaughterhouses licensed on the return to Private Slaughtering remain in use and are operating satisfactorily.

Number of Animals Slaughtered during the year.

| | Bullocks | Heifers | Cows | Bulls | Calves | Pigs | Sheep |
|-------------------|----------|---------|------|-------|--------|------|-------|
| Normal Kill | 1010 | 1086 | — | — | 4 | 1372 | 2993 |
| Casualties | — | — | 3 | 1 | — | 1 | 9 |
| Total | 1010 | 1086 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1373 | 3002 |

The amount of meat and organs condemned, together with the reasons for condemnation is set out in the following tables. All meat and offal condemned is processed for the extraction of fat, glues, etc.

Meat and Other Organs Condemned, Surrendered and Destroyed.

For Tuberculosis:

Bovine:

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Heads and Tongues | 36 |
| Lungs | 63 |
| Livers | 12 |
| Skirts | 2 |
| Mesenteries | 7 |
| Gut | 7 |
| Tripes | 7 |
| Kidneys | 2 |
| Beef | 893 lbs. |
| Carcases | 3 |

(Total Weight—123½ stones)

Swine:

| | |
|-------------|----|
| Heads | 23 |
|-------------|----|

For other Defined Diseases:

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Bovine: | |
| Heads and Tongues | C. Bovis 16, Actinomycosis 3, Abscesses 1. |
| Lungs | Pleurisy 17, Parasites 31, Abscesses 18, Pentastomes 6. |
| Livers | Cirrhosis (whole) 100 (Part) 738, Abscesses 49, Hydatids 11, Perihepatitis 1, Cavernous Haemangioma 1, Fatty Change 1. |
| Hearts | C. Bovis 5, Traumatic Pericarditis 2. |
| Skirts | Abscesses 4. |
| Kidneys | Abscesses 1, Nephritis 2, Hydro nephrosis 1. |
| Mesenterics | Pentastomes 13. |
| Gut | Inflammation 1. |
| Tripes | Abscesses 1. |
| Beef | Abscesses 167 lbs. |

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Sheep: | |
| Plucks | Pleurisy 2. |
| Livers | Parasites 22, Perihepatitis 1, Abscesses 7, C. Tennuicollis 5. |
| Gut | Inflammation 1. |
| Mutton | Bruising 12 lbs. |

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Swine: | |
| Heads | Abscesses 1. |
| Lungs | Pneumonia 70, Pleurisy 46. |
| Livers | Perihepatitis 18, Parasites 30. |
| Hearts | Pericarditis 37. |
| Kidneys | Nephritis 2. |
| Carcases | Acute Septic Pleurisy and Peritonitis 1. (Weight 94 lbs.) |

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

| | Cattle exc. Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs |
|--|---------------------|------|--------|--------------------|------|
| No. killed and inspected | 2097 | 3 | 4 | 3002 | 1373 |
| All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci. | | | | | |
| Whole Carcases condemned | — | — | — | — | — |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 147 | 3 | — | 43 | 150 |
| Percentage affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci | 7 | 100 | — | 1.4 | 11 |
| Tuberculosis Only. | | | | | |
| Whole Carcases condemned | 3 | — | — | — | — |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 95 | — | — | — | 23 |
| Percentage affected with Tuberculosis | 4.7 | — | — | — | 1.7 |
| Cysticercosis. | | | | | |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 19 | — | — | — | — |
| Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ... | 19 | — | — | — | — |
| Generalised and totally condemned | — | — | — | — | — |

Other Foods.

The following foods were found to be unfit and were condemned and destroyed:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|---------------|----------|
| Canned Goods | 1581 tins | Bacon | 250 lbs. |
| Bread and Confectionery | 67 lbs. | Fruit | 44 lbs. |
| Butter and Cheese | 27 lbs. | Sausage | 55 lbs. |
| Pork Pies | 49 | Meat | 255 lbs. |

Disposal of unfit food is carried out according to circumstances and its character. Tinned meat, where suitable, is used as rat bait.

Other foods are burned, when suitable arrangements can be made to use some of the large boilers in the district, or buried, or when suitable, used for pig food.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is now provided by the Regional Hospital Board at Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle.

**TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
UNDER AGE GROUPS**

| Disease | Age unknown | Under 1 year | 1—2 years | 3—4 years | 5—9 years | 10—14 years | 15—24 years | 25—34 years | 35—44 years | 45—54 years | 55—64 years | 65—74 years | 75 years & over | Total | Admitted to Hospital |
|---------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-------|----------------------|
| Scarlet Fever | — | — | — | 2 | 5 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 9 | — |
| Pneumonia | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | 2 | 1 | — | 5 | — |
| Poliomyelitis | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Food Poisoning | — | — | — | — | — | 4 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 5 | — |
| Dysentery | — | — | 1 | 5 | 1 | — | 2 | 2 | — | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | 15 | — |
| Measles | — | 10 | 132 | 190 | 196 | 6 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 535 | — |
| Whooping Cough | 1 | 11 | 25 | 43 | 43 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 125 | — |

Measles.

Following on the almost complete absence of Measles from the district in 1956, it was to be expected that 1957 would be an epidemic year and this proved to be the case.

The epidemic began in February with 18 cases, spread in March with 31 cases and reached its peak in April when 217 cases were notified. In May there were 192 cases and in June 52 and thereafter the outbreak rapidly subsided. There were no deaths.

Whooping Cough.

This disease too, was prevalent in 1957, mainly in the first half of the year. There was one death—an infant who also suffered from congenital heart disease.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.

Only one case of this disease occurred. The patient, a girl of 13 years, took ill in February at a time when there had been no other known case in the whole county for two or three months. She had not been away from home and it was quite impossible to know how she had acquired her infection.

She was extremely, and for a time dangerously, ill, suffered from extensive paralysis and was left with considerable disability.

Food Poisoning.

Five cases of this were notified but 4 of the victims were pupils attending a school outside the Ashington Area and were infected at the school, where an outbreak of food poisoning occurred, due to *C. l. Welchii*.

Sonne Dysentery.

Only 15 cases were notified and 9 of these occurred in 2 related households. The others were single cases which occurred sporadically.

Diphtheria.

For the eighth consecutive year no cases of this disease occurred and for 11 years no fatal case has been reported.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During 1957 there were treated for the first time at the Child Welfare Centre, at the schools and by private doctors 387 pre-school children and 22 school children. In addition, reinforcing injections were given to 211 pre-school children and 135 school children.

At 31.12.57 it was estimated that 5049 children under the age of 15 years had completed a course of the treatment during the five years 1953-1957 and a further 1174 had been immunised in 1952 or earlier.

This gives an immunity index for the different age groups as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Under 1 year | 29.59 |
| 1—4 years | 82.29 |
| 5—14 years | 78.88 |
| All children under 15 years | 76.6 |

These figures show a considerable improvement on the corresponding figures at the end of 1956

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1957.

| Age Groups | NEW CASES | | | | | DEATHS | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|---|-----------|---|-------|--------|---|-----------|---|-------|
| | Resp. | | Non-Resp. | | | Resp. | | Non-Resp. | | |
| | M | F | M | F | Total | M | F | M | F | Total |
| Under 1 year | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1 - 4 years | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5 - 14 years | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 15 - 24 years | 1 | 1 | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 25 - 34 years | — | 1 | — | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 35 - 44 years | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 45 - 54 years | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 55 - 64 years | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 65 - 74 years . | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 75 years and over | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Age Unknown | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 1 | 4 | — | 1 | 6 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |

During 1957 only 5 new cases of respiratory tuberculosis and one of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified. This is a decrease of 15 on the respiratory and 3 in the non-respiratory cases compared with the previous year. The number of new cases of respiratory tuberculosis is the smallest in any year since notification first began.

There was one death from respiratory tuberculosis—a man of 78 years and this gives a death rate of 0.0352 per 1,000 of the population—the lowest rate ever recorded in Ashington.

The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 0.095 per 1,000.

MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS.

The number of deaths from Cancer and other malignant neoplasms declined from 58 in 1956 to 40 in 1957 and the death rate fell from 2.045 to 1.41 per 1,000.

| Site | MALES | | | | | | FEMALES | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-------|
| | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65-74 | 75+ | Total | un lyr | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65-74 | 75+ | Total |
| Lung & Bronchus | — | 1 | — | 3 | 1 | 5 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Stomach | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Breast | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | 4 |
| Pharynx and Larynx | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Colon | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | 2 |
| Pancreas | 1 | — | — | 1 | 1 | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Oesophagus | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Prostate | — | — | — | 2 | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Uterus | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 2 |
| Ovary | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Rectum | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Gall Bladder | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Bladder | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Lymphatic and Haematopoietic Tissues | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Eye | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Liver, Abdomen and Prim. Unknown | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Carcinomatosis Prim. Unknown | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Totals | 2 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 24 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 16 |

Malignant Neoplasms of the Lung and Bronchus.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Death Rate in Ashington | 0.211 per 1,000 |
| Death Rate in England and Wales. | 0.426 per 1,000 |

Malignant Neoplasms of All Other Sites.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Death Rate in Ashington | 1.198 per 1,000 |
| Death Rate in England and Wales | 1.668 per 1,000 |

Malignant Neoplasms of All Sites.

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Total Death Rate in Ashington | 1.410 per 1,000 |
| Total Death Rate in England and Wales | 2.094 per 1,000 |

